



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,003	11/24/2003	Gregory E. Ross	150449D1	3969

7590 04/27/2007
Frederick Frei
Andrews Kurth LLP
Intellectual Property Department
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

EXAMINER

BLACKWELL, GWENDOLYN ANNETTE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1775

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,003

Applicant(s)

ROSS, GREGORY E.

Examiner

Gwendolyn Blackwell

Art Unit

1775

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ²³⁻²⁹ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u> </u> |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u> </u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u> </u> |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 30-34 in the reply filed on December 8, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that it would not constitute an undue burden to search both inventions. This argument has been considered, but not found persuasive. MPEP § 808.02 recites that for the purposes of the initial requirement of a restriction, a serious burden on the examiner may be prima facie shown if the examiner shows by appropriate explanation either separate classification, separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in MPEP § 808.02. Since the Examiner has shown a separate status in the art for the two groups of claims, a burden for examining both groups has been shown.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Reissue Applications

2. An inquiry is made into the existence of an assignment of this application. It is noted that there is a statement of non-assignment filed April 12, 2004. However USPTO records indicate that an assignment was filed on May 31, 2006. It is noted that there must be written consent of all assignees owning an undivided interest in the patent in compliance with 37 CFR 1.172. *See MPEP 1410.01*. Clarification is required.

3. The amendment filed July 13, 2005 proposes amendments to the claims that do not comply with 37 CFR 1.173(b), which sets forth the manner of making amendments in reissue applications. A supplemental paper correctly amending the reissue application is required.

Art Unit: 1775

4. The reissue oath/declaration filed with this application is defective because it fails to identify at least one error, which is relied upon to support the reissue application. See 37 CFR 1.175(a)(1) and MPEP § 1414.

Claims ~~30~~-34 are rejected as being based upon a defective reissue oath under 35 U.S.C. 251 as set forth above. See 37 CFR 1.175.

The error relied upon to support the reissue application is not sufficient. See *MPEP 1414, section II*. Applicant does not identify a single word, phrase or expression in the claim and how it renders the original patent inoperative or invalid. The nature of the defect(s) in the oath is set forth in the discussion above in this Office action.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 5 contains the word “lest”. In light of the claim language, should the word be “least” Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent no. 4,673,609, Hill.

Art Unit: 1775

Regarding claim 30

Hill discloses a unidirectional panel comprised of panel of transparent (substrate) material having a first design visible from one side yet not the other, (column 2, lines 23-30). The design (second coating) on the panel is superimposed on a pattern of opaque elements (first coating), (column 3, lines 10-33), meeting the limitations of claim 30.

Regarding claims 31-34

The panels can be used on vehicles (motor vehicles), (column 21, lines 49-67), meeting the limitations of claim 31.

The pattern of the panel can be in the form of indicia, (column 22, lines 52-60), meeting the limitations of claim 32.

The design portion of the panel can have two or more colored areas, (column 14, lines 38-50), meeting the limitations of claim 33.

The panel can be attached to a vehicle windshield, (column 15, lines 11-24), meeting the limitations of claim 34.

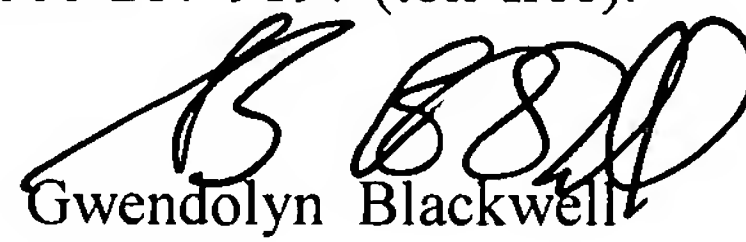
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gwendolyn Blackwell whose telephone number is (571) 272-1533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday; 6:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer McNeil can be reached on (571) 272-1540. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1775

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gwendolyn Blackwell
Examiner
Art Unit 1775

gab